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REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995. See the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application. NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice. Application No. <u>09/739,929</u> Filing Date <u>December 18, 2000</u> First Named Inventor Thomas N. Marieb et al. Group Art Unit 2818 Examiner Name Hoang, Quoc Dinh Attorney Docket No. 042390P10637 Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 Previously submitted Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37. C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on _____ (Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered). Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on ____ iii. [] Other b. [X] Enclosed [X] Preliminary Amendment [] Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s) [X] Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) iv. [X] Other Cited References Miscellaneous Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) a. [for a period of months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months. Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required) Other b. [] ★ees The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed. The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 [X] RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) ii. [] Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17) Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3), applicant(s) hereby request and authorize the U.S. [X] Patent and Trademark Office to (1) treat any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for extension of time as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time and (2) charge all required fees, including extension of time fees and fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17, to Deposit Account No. 02-2666. Processing fee under 37 CFR § 1.17(i) for Limited Suspension of Action iv. [] Other_ Check in the amount of \$ 740.00 enclosed b. [X] c. [] Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed) 10/23/2002 AWDNDAF1 00000122 09739929 740.00 DP

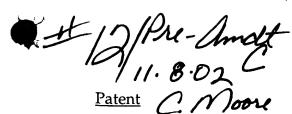
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OCT 2 1 20:2 Attorney's Docket No.: 042390P10637

Washington, D.C. 20231

Serial No.: 09/739,929



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:)		
Thomas N. Marieb et al.)		
U.S. Serial No:	09/739,929)]	Examiner:	Hoang, Quoc D.
Filed:	December 18, 2000)	Art Unit:	2818
For: COPPER ALLOYS FOR INTERCONNECTIONS HAVING IMPROVED ELECTROMIGRATION CHARACTERISTICS AND METHODS OF MAKING SAME))))		
Assistant Commissi and Trademarks	oner for Patents			

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed July 16, 2002 and the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 filed concurrently herewith, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to enter this preliminary amendment and consider the remarks prior to examination of the above referenced case.

Attorney Docket: 042390P10637